



Carolyn Powers  
Chair

February 5, 2003

Michael Handal, Project Manager  
Engineering and Capital Projects  
City of San Diego  
1010 2nd Avenue  
Suite 1100  
San Diego, California 92101

***Re: Flood Protection Corridor Program (FPCP) Grant  
Browns Fill Removal Project, Tijuana River Valley, City San Diego, California***

Dear Mr. Handal,

I am writing in support of the removal of the illegal fill dumped in the early 80s on property known as the "Brown Property" located on Hollister Street in the Tijuana River Valley Flood Plain. This fill blocks almost one half of the river flow space available under the Hollister Street Bridge.

I strongly believe that the river was forced from its' banks to forge the "Northern Channel" of the Tijuana River during the floods of 1993 because of the blockage of the flows under the bridge. The Northern Channel bisected an organic produce farm known as the Effie Mae Farm. It also continued in a northwesterly direction to create a mini Grand Canyon on three horse ranches on Sunset Avenue. Most of these properties failed to recover and the land remains more at risk than surrounding lands due to the illegal fill blocking the flow under the Hollister Street Bridge.

The floods of 1993 had a huge impact on me. When I went to the Valley to check on my horse and my father's horse on a fateful January morning, police roadblocks stopped my entry and an officer informed me that they couldn't let me enter, that I could write our horses off due to flooding. I ended up sneaking behind the police lines and walking in waist and chest deep waters to rescue our animals. As you know, I have been very active for the community ever since those floods. Frank Belock and you are the instruments we need to implement this very critical cornerstone of flood control in the Tijuana River Valley.

Please advise if there is any way I can be of assistance with this needed project.

Thank you,

Carolyn Powers